



Chairman Julius Genachowski

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

June 16, 2011

*RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations (WT Docket No. 11-65).*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to helping our local business community expand and prosper. At the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, we serve an eight-county region. We are particularly excited about attracting technology jobs to our area and in fact, we were recently named one of the top seven best cities for IT jobs by *Forbes* magazine.

In order to support economic growth for the area, The Columbus Chamber is focusing its efforts on facilitating the growth and development of existing businesses and strengths on specific critical business objectives, and we gear our programs and services toward those goals. Our first objective is to retain and expand existing businesses, which we do by connecting with our business members and learning about their needs, which we then address with our programs, resources, training, and advocacy efforts. Economic growth, expansion, and regional business retention result from these actions. We also strive to build capacity for growth by ensuring that our area is creating and upgrading key assets such as infrastructure, business-friendly policies, and an educated workforce.

In our modern digital age, it is clear that access to advanced communications technology and an enhanced network infrastructure are fundamental necessities for economic and community development. Our area businesses can use this technology to expand and grow, and as a chamber, we can use it to support this growth. The AT&T/T-Mobile merger will result in an expanded network and virtually universal access to high-speed wireless broadband, which will help us to achieve our goals for the good of our region's economy, people, and businesses. For example, if faster, more reliable wireless broadband were available to all our area communities, we could improve and expand our outreach efforts, offer more online programs and resources, and nurture a more direct line of communication with our member businesses—all of which will help encourage economic well-being in our region.

It is important to note that there are 10 providers of wireless services in the greater Columbus market, including AT&T, T-Mobile, Leap Wireless/Cricket, Metro PCS, Net10, Revol, Sprint, TracFone, Verizon, and Virgin Mobile. The Columbus Chamber believes in competition. We believe in our nation's free enterprise system. The wireless industry is among the most competitive industries in the country. With T-Mobile's decision to essentially vacate the market, we do not believe that competition will be negatively impacted. There are a multitude of different phones and plans to suit the many different needs of our members. We believe this robust competitive environment will grow in the industry even after the merger, as new technologies and new players enter the market.

Broadband is critical infrastructure for business, both now and into the future. It brings opportunities for growth and expansion to our communities, and this merger will make that happen much more quickly than would otherwise be possible. I urge you to support this merger, and I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Dalby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Dalby" clearly distinguishable.

Michael Dalby  
President & CEO  
Columbus Chamber of Commerce

CC:  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn